



Management

Ongoing community consultation is critical to this program. Education to raise awareness of the existence of public foreshore land and the need to manage it wisely is another important element.

So what is being done?

Since the release of the Lake Mulwala Land and Water Management Plan in November 2004 these issues are gradually being addressed.

Goulburn-Murray Water is identifying unauthorised structures on public foreshore land and removing them where appropriate.

Permanent markers will be installed to identify the boundary between private and public land.

In some areas, Landscape Management Plans will be developed. This will involve landscaping works and planting native trees, shrubs and grasses. These sites will become models to demonstrate how water quality, environmental and public management objectives can be successfully achieved.

The program also includes the general cleanup of public foreshore land including rubbish removal, removing weeds and trees that pose a safety risk and erosion control measures.

Regular foot and boat patrols will support management of the public foreshore land. In instances where unapproved works on public foreshore land are detected, offenders may be prosecuted.

More information?

For more information on the management of public foreshore land in Victoria, to obtain the Lake Mulwala Land & On-Water Management Plan or to report unsafe or inappropriate activities on the foreshore, please contact Goulburn-Murray Water's Yarrawonga Weir Office on (03) 5744 3137.

For more information on the management of public foreshore land in New South Wales contact the DNR on (02) 6024 8861.



Managing Public Foreshore Land at Lake Mulwala

What is Public Foreshore Land?

Public foreshore land is managed by government agencies on behalf of the Crown. It is set aside for public use and managed to take into account public and environmental needs.



Where is Public Foreshore Land at Lake Mulwala?

Public foreshore land extends along the Victorian shoreline of the lake. Public foreshore land along the New South Wales shoreline includes the area adjacent to Spring Drive (north of Mulwala township) and Kyfinn's Reserve.

The strip of public foreshore land varies in width from less than one metre, to more than 50m in some areas.

Who manages this land?

On the Victorian side of the lake Goulburn-Murray Water owns and manages the public foreshore land on behalf of the Murray Darling Basin Commission. In New South Wales, public foreshore land along Spring Drive is administered by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), while Kyfinn's Reserve is Crown Land administered by the Rural Land Protection Board.

In addition, there are some smaller areas of Crown Land managed by the Department of Lands, the Ministerial Corporation and Corowa Shire Council.



What are the management objectives for this land?

As outlined in the Lake Mulwala Land & On-Water Management Plan (2004) priorities for managing this land are to cause minimal impact on the surrounding natural environment and create easy public access to the lake edge using an environmentally friendly approach.

At Lake Mulwala, public foreshore land is intended to be managed for a variety of purposes including:

- 1 improving water quality;**
- 2 creating environmental benefits; and**
- 3 to benefit the public who use the lake.**

Protection of water quality is extremely important at Lake Mulwala which is used primarily for irrigation water supply, but is also a drinking source supporting a wide variety of recreation and tourism related activities.

Vegetation on public foreshore land can form an effective buffer between the lake and adjacent urban and agricultural land. Foreshore vegetation can filter out pollutants from surface water runoff, including sediment and nutrients that can cause blue-green algae.

A buffer zone of native vegetation provides habitat for a wide variety of species and prevents erosion.

While the interests of immediately adjacent landholders are recognised, it is important to remember that this land is a public asset that needs to be managed for the benefit of the whole community.



Challenges

Managing public foreshore land at Lake Mulwala is costly and funding for public works is limited. Other challenges include:

- The lack of an obvious boundary between public land and adjacent private land;
- Managing vegetation on public foreshore land;
- controlling the ongoing erosion of some public foreshore areas;
- the existence of unsafe structures on public foreshore land, as well as structures which pose an environmental risk (e.g. fuel tanks); and
- Fences and structures which prevent access to the public foreshore land by the wider public.